

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 95

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 2, 2001

Received and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Supporting a National Charter Schools Week.

Whereas charter schools are public schools authorized by a designated public body and operating on the principles of accountability, parental involvement, choice, and autonomy;

Whereas in exchange for the flexibility and autonomy given to charter schools, they are held accountable by their

sponsors for improving student achievement and for their financial and other operations;

Whereas 36 States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico have passed laws authorizing charter schools;

Whereas 35 States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico will have received more than \$500,000,000 in grants from the Federal Government by the end of the current fiscal year for planning, startup, and implementation of charter schools since their authorization in 1994 under part C of title X of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 8061 et seq.);

Whereas 34 States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico are serving approximately 550,000 students in more than 2,150 charter schools during the 2000 to 2001 school year;

Whereas charter schools can be vehicles both for improving student achievement for students who attend them and for stimulating change and improvement in all public schools and benefiting all public school students;

Whereas charter schools in many States serve significant numbers of students with lower income, minority students, and students with disabilities;

Whereas the Charter Schools Expansion Act of 1998 (Public Law 105–278) amended the Federal grant program for charter schools authorized by part C of title X of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 8061 et seq.) to strengthen accountability provisions at the Federal, State, and local levels to ensure that

charter public schools are of high quality and are truly accountable to the public;

Whereas 7 of 10 charter schools report having a waiting list;

Whereas students in charter schools nationwide have similar demographic characteristics as students in all public schools;

Whereas charter schools have enjoyed broad bipartisan support from the Administration, the Congress, State governors and legislatures, educators, and parents across the Nation; and

Whereas charter schools are laboratories of reform and serve as models of how to educate children as effectively as possible: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring), That—*

3 (1) the Congress acknowledges and commends
4 the charter school movement for its contribution to
5 improving our Nation's public school system; and

6 (2) it is the sense of the Congress that—

7 (A) a National Charter Schools Week
8 should be established; and

9 (B) the President should issue a proclama-
10 tion calling on the people of the United States
11 to conduct appropriate programs, ceremonies,
12 and activities to demonstrate support for char-

